

George Ege Mansion
3/4 mile south of U. S. Route 422
Robesonia
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1026

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

GEORGE EGE MANSION

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Location: 3/4 mile south of U. S. Route 422, Robeson, Berks County, Pennsylvania

Present Owner and Occupant: Leroy Millikan, Robeson, Pennsylvania

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement of Significance: This is one of the largest Georgian houses built about the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries by the iron masters in eastern Pennsylvania.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original owner: Built for George Ege.
2. Date of erection: 1807.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: The house was remodeled about 1885. The porch on the west side and the wing on the east are later additions; some alterations have been made to the interior.
4. References: Arthur Cecil Bining, Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture in the Eighteenth Century (Harrisburg: 1938). Morton L. Montgomery, History of Berks County in Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Everts, Peck and Richards, 1886), pp. 548-549, 1109-1110.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: George Ege, for whom this house was built, was born March 9, 1748. He was known during his time as the largest landowner in Berks County and was identified with the iron interests. Besides four large farms in Tulpehocken and Heidelberg Townships, he owned Charming Forge with 4,000 acres, Schuylkill Forge with 6,000 acres, and Reading Furnace with 6,000 acres.

This house was built near the site of the Reading Furnace which Ege had started in 1794. Operation of the Reading Furnace was suspended during the depression of 1824. It later passed to Robeson and Brooke and became known as the Robeson Furnace.

Ege was a patriot during the Revolution, and in 1783 was elected a member of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

He was also one of the first Associate Judges of Berks County under the Constitution of 1790. He served as Associate Judge from 1791 to 1818. Ege died December 14, 1829, at his home at Charming Forge and was buried at Womelsdorf.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
January 1961

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Ege Mansion is a large, two-story, five-bay, stone house with fine Georgian details. The house has been enlarged by an open porch on the west side and a large kitchen and service wing on the east. The south (front) and north (or garden) facades have not been changed. The house is in excellent condition and is well maintained by the present owners.

The walls and foundation are of stone, the porch on the west side is frame. Two interior chimneys rise above the gable roof, marking the center of the rooms that flank the central hall.

The central door of the south front is a finely detailed Georgian type with the arch above the recessed entry projecting into the classic pediment. The windows are large double-hung sash with twelve panes in each sash. There are large stone lintels with projecting keystones. The shutters follow the traditional form with three-panel solid ones on the first floor and louvered ones on the second.

The house has a central-hall type plan with two rooms on either side. There is a spiral stair at the back of the central hall with a Palladian window between the first and second floors. Modern lighting and heating equipment have been installed, and some alterations made to the interior. However, the major portion of the woodwork remains intact.

The house faces south and is situated in a large tree-lined yard. A driveway circles in front of the house, and there is extensive landscaping on all sides.

Prepared by Drury B. Alexander
University of Pennsylvania
August 1958